



Gift Ayebazibwe (sponsor: Baker's),
Gift Pleasant (sponsor: Howard's) and
Gift Namanya (sponsor: Deitzen's)



mountain children's ministry

MID YEAR SUMMARY JUNE 2026

TO OUR DEAR FRIENDS ~

Many blessings to you all at this magical time of year! I am writing in April and the weather is finally breaking with tulips, daffodils, the smell of the earth, the budding of trees and the singing of birds...Oh! What a wonderful blessing Spring is!

In addition to the gift of Spring and soon Summer let me share with you three more amazing "Gifts." These three darling young ladies all share the first name of "Gift." In addition, they share the gift from God of extraordinarily high IQ combined with discipline, hard work ethic and gentle, humble, kind characters. Gift Ayebazibwe, Gift Pleasant and Gift Namanya are all young women in different stages of their University experience. Gift A is completing her freshman year in Physics and Math Education. Gift P is finishing her senior year in Accounting and Business and Gift N. completed Nursing, passed boards and is now working

and awaiting graduation. All three girls have been on the MCM program since 2017 and all three girls' fathers are either deceased or absent. Life has not been easy for them. Yet in all of our interactions, each has truly been a gift to Ivan and I...such blessings!

Children are children no matter what continent you are on. They are immature, inexperienced, naive and in their teen years, attempting to navigate massive physical, hormonal and emotional changes. This is not easy to do with both parents present, so much harder when you are an orphan. Add to that - lack of resources, lack of food, lack of safety and protection, lack of clothing or feminine protection or even soap to clean. Then add lack of light to study by, lack of textbooks, lack of school supplies, school uniforms, shoes and most of all school tuition fees. Honestly it is a miracle these students make any progress in school at all!

And yet...God hears these kids and miraculously, through many of you, communicates to them they matter to Him. Through your generosity our Gifts have received so many gifts! To watch them bloom, to see their academic gifts surface and grow, to watch as they struggle faithfully, one day at a time leaning into His care and Love, truly it is amazing grace, a divine gift.

We are so grateful to all of you! Our three Gifts are so grateful! And ALL the rest of over 300 MCM students attending school and learning how deeply God loves them cannot Thank you enough! Actually, YOU are OUR gifts from God!

Feeling overwhelmingly blessed ~
"mum michele"

UPDATES FROM IVAN IN UGANDA: JUNE 2026

Hello all! We humbly send greetings from all of us here in Uganda. I hope the good Lord has kept each one of you healthy and happy. We are so grateful to again update you what has been happening with the children and other areas of the organization.

ACADEMICS AND HEALTH

Because of our supporters, we are thankful to report all the children are back in school for the new 2026 school year, including those without sponsors. They all lack nothing. In addition, most of the children are healthy which we do not take for granted remembering our past history of critically ill students.

In October 2025 we had ten young adults sit for National Exams in Senior Six and six of them qualified to join university. It is not an easy examination so we are proud of those who overcame that hurdle! Of these, we had 2 qualify to study medicine and another to pursue electrical engineering. We are also proud of those whose careers lie of importance elsewhere.

MCM also had 30 students complete their primary and secondary level exams and some of them were able to top their schools as well. This is no mean feat given their backgrounds. We are grateful to have students who are so committed and cherish being sponsored in school.

We believe the continued improvement in the performance of the children can be attributed, in part, to the availability of our library. We have research books, computers for online study, a room for tutoring and also lights in evening where children from nearby communities can come to read when their home lighting is insufficient or even absent.

Most importantly in our children's health is their Spiritual growth! Each month Bible studies are attended by either young children (3-8yrs) or older students (10-24 yrs)

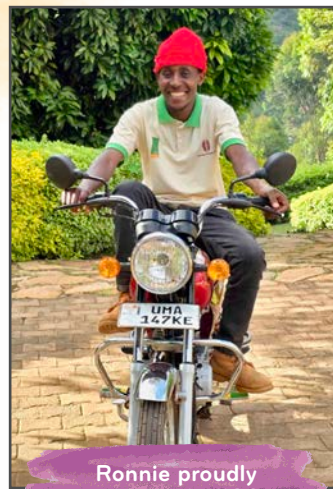


Primary students Bible study



Library students reading

The younger children are read stories and do crafts. The older students bring their Bibles and are challenged by our loving Pastor Elisam to keep their eyes on Jesus and follow Him closely in their words and actions. What a blessing to witness these orphans delight in God's obvious love and care for them through all of you!



Ronnie proudly rides Boda #30

BODA/TAXI PROGRAM

Currently MCM is intentionally streamlining the Boda / Taxi Program to make sure we maximize the profits as much as possible. Although it has its challenges, like all transport businesses, we are happy with what is happening there. In 2026 it is paying tuition for 110 primary school children. In November 2025 we had 13 primary students complete the Boda Program and three moved onto the MCM

sponsorship program. The Boda Program also gives employment to 33 people with jobs able to provide for their families and live gainful lives.

I want to thank Ruth Gottlieb whose consulting, instruction and review has been of immense value to me and to this program! Ruth increases my knowledge monthly on how to run Quick Books, understand accounting, track profitability and sustainability and best manage this business. Her work has been incredible and has helped us get much more organized.



Thanks Ruth!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Another great source of knowledge and instruction has been the MCM Education Committee. This group is responsible for counseling our students in making the best choices for their future occupations. These Educators have been providing objective advice on what vocations are best for our country which offers few jobs. The Committee meets students after their national exams (S.4 and S.6) then advises, based on exam performance, interviews, student strengths, passions for employment and job availability. MCM is much in debt to these dedicated Ugandan volunteers for their invaluable help both to our organization and our students who struggle to make educated decisions about their future.



MCM Education Committee Extraordinaire



Ma interviewing Blessing T

MA MICHELE'S VISIT

This January, we were blessed to host Ma Michele again. It is one of our favorite times of the year because it reminds the children how important and loved they are seeing someone would travel across the world just for them.

During her stay each child meets one on one with Ma and shares their joys and challenges. I think this is a very important time for the children, especially those who are orphaned, because they rarely get an opportunity to have someone listen and care about what is happening in their lives. They also receive letters from their sponsors and it is so fun seeing their faces brighten up when they open

these letters! Often there are pictures, Christmas cards and even small gifts from some sponsors. All this makes them feel loved in tangible ways and reminds them of God's great love for them. We cannot thank her enough for being the link between the sponsors and the children! Without Ma Michele, this organization would not be existing. We thank God for her and all the effort and work she has been doing for the last thirteen years to have our community changed and we can truthfully say, there is remarkable change.



As I end I must say "Thank You!" to our incredible partners for all the ways you have blessed MCM. Because of God's love and your faithfulness over these 13 years we are enabled to bless our village and change the lives of these children and their families.

May God bless YOU immeasurably!
Ivan- Director

Lives Touched

A CARPENTER'S DREAM FULFILLED, A CATERER'S HEART RESTORED



Given, 2019

Given

My mother is a refugee from Rwanda and owns no land in Uganda to farm. My father has always struggled with mental problems. He would disappear from home for months and then when he returned, he would be so destructive, once burning our house down to the ground. He could not have a job so we struggled with making ends meet. Me and my siblings could not go to school.



Mark, 2019

Mark

I am called Mark Akatwijuka a recent graduate of MCM. In 2014, when I was nine years old, MCM took me to Mulago Heart Institute. I was suffering from Rheumatic Heart Disease and the surgeons advised the best solution was only surgery due to the critical condition of my heart. They replaced the valve of my heart with a new metallic valve. It took the Doctors 12 hours and 30 minutes performing the task and cost 18 million UGS.



Given continued...

I have always wanted to be a carpenter. I had an uncle who was a carpenter and I liked the way he used his hands to make nice things out of wood. I would go to his workshop for my mother's pig's bedding and just watch him with his tools and his pencil behind his ear and I thought that was cool. He would show me and my sister what furniture he was making and explain its purpose. When I grew older, I would help him during my break from school and I got to like this trade.

I was 11 in 2019 when MCM provided me with the opportunity to go to school. My sponsor, Kevin Naughton was very encouraging, supportive and prayed for me. Two years ago I began vocational school to learn how be a carpenter,

it was a dream come true and Kevin helped me achieve this dream. I will be completing my course at African Christian College of Technology this July, 2026.

I have attained so many skills that I now get people asking me to make them beds, tables and other forms of furniture. After I graduate and purchase some basic tools, I hope to open my own furniture workshop and make people happy and also make my family better.

I want to thank my sponsor Kevin, who trusted me and has sponsored me for last seven years. I am also so grateful to Uncle Ivan who has always been there for me and finally I thank God who helped me! Without them, I would not have been able to have my dream fulfilled.



Mark continued...

MCM and my sponsors, the Cunninghams, have been the cornerstone behind my success in the achieved course of my life. My heart surgery was all paid by MCM through my sponsors and others who gave to support me. Since then I have also had to take various medications which were also provided. I was overjoyed the day I was finally able to join my friends playing Futbol!! I will always thank MCM and Uncle Ivan, Mummy Michele and "Dad Kelly and Mum Charity" wherever I will go.

I'm also thankful for my education! I finished my Primary under

my parents then later I joined Secondary school with the support of MCM till the end of Senior Four. I then joined the AICM Vocational School to study the course of Hotel and Institutional Catering for two years. I really enjoy cooking and I help MCM at their Christmas parties with all the necessary preparations and actual cooking. I came to the climax of my course, by the grace of God, with the supportive hands of the Cunningham's and MCM.

In a nutshell, I want to extend my sincere thanks to MCM for their comforting me in every situation. I will never be tired of thanking MCM, the Cunninghams and Uncle Ivan.

A SPECIAL THANKS

Since 2014 the paper and printing required to create these MCM biannual newsletters has been paid for and donated by Darwill. We at MCM are so grateful for their years of generosity and support! A special Thank you to Troy and Brandon Van Dyke, and Mark DeBoer and Colette McCool!

PLEASE SPONSOR AN ORPHAN

PLEASE CONSIDER giving a child a new future by choosing to stand by them and believe in them



KENNETH

Kenneth was left with his Grandma Merab when he was two in 2017. His Mum never revealed the identity of his father and left the village, rarely returning and not supporting her son. Merab finds the amount of manual labor digging which she can do insufficient to support Kenneth. She sends him daily in search of scrap metal to sell so they can get some money for food. Kenneth is in Primary Three and wants to be a Pilot someday.



MARY

Mary was abandoned by both her mother and her father after they separated in 2018 when Mary was six. They left her to reside with her Great Grandma, Batungwa since her grandma had died. Batungwa is 99 years old and cannot work. Mary begs for school fees coming daily to MCM offices persevering with her sweet smile as she has no one to represent her. Mary is in Senior Two and wants to be an Engineer



JACINTA

Jacinta's father sent she, her two siblings, and her Mum, Judith, away in 2021 when Jacinta was four. Having nowhere to go they moved to the village with Grandma Jenrose. They never heard from Jacinta's father again. Judith digs on the farms of others to help support her aging mother and her three children with much difficulty. Jacinta is in Primary Two and wants to be a Nurse.



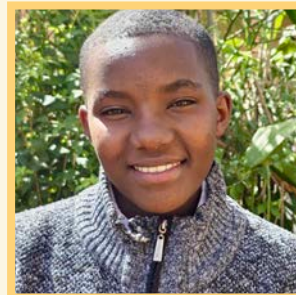
PRINCESS

Princess and her four siblings have a father very sick with mental illness and her mother, Rose, is always in debt with medical costs. Because of this Rose sent Princess to live with her Aunti Kate where she could be better cared for. Princess has been on the Boda Program since 2023 and received a Second Grade on her Primary Seven National Exam which is good! Princess is now in Senior One and wants to be a Lawyer.



PRETTY

Pretty (23) was abandoned by her father at a very young age and he provides nothing. Pretty's mum, Jane, is a peasant farmer and does manual labor along with Pretty to make money to survive. Pretty has advanced to her first year of the three year program at St Ignatius vocational school to pursue her certificate in Medical Records.



SHALLON

Shallon's father disappeared when she was a toddler and was never seen again. Shallon's mother, Brenda, left Shallon with her grandmother and her Auntie Goodness 11 years ago when Shallon was 3 years old. Shallon has four siblings whom her Aunti Goodness also cares for. Shallon just completed her Primary Seven Leaving Exams and is attending Senior One of secondary school. She would very much like to be a Doctor.



Scan the code to sponsor a child, or visit:
mountainchildrensministry.com/sponsor-a-child

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

From Michele:

Printcomm is a printing company in Flint, MI which supports 36 MCM children financially and leaves the writing of letters and the relationships to others (featured in Dec 2022 newsletter on MCM website). It has been my privilege to introduce these 36 children to people who are seeking to make a difference with their relationship and writing. Kori was only 15 years old when she was introduced to MCM by her Grandma, Donna, also a Printcomm sponsor. Since that time she has been wonderfully encouraging to her Ugandan friend Rinah, consistent and kind in her letters. Kori is now 20 and happened to write me a letter this March explaining how it has been Rinah who has actually encouraged her! I thought that was worth reading and celebrating...

By Kori Gerstner:

As a child I lived in a homeless shelter that had a sponsor system. So when my Grandmother introduced me to MCM and the Printcomm children I instantly knew it was something I wanted to be a part of. I immediately knew I made the right call.

I began writing Rinah Natukunda around December 2021, and have been writing her ever since. She has taught me so many important life lessons at such a young age. Without her I would have learned these lessons much later in life.

We've both endured so much at such young ages. Her sharing how she continuously shines and holds her head high through hardship inspires me greatly. She has shown more intelligence, strength, and thankfulness for what she's been provided than I've seen in people three times her age. Rinah inspires me to follow in her footsteps every day.



Kori holding photo of Rinah Natukunda

I believe in the midst of all the turmoil going on in the world, everyone should make it a point to seek more knowledge, connection, and opportunities to learn about others and ourselves. This is something I believe MCM and Printcomm together have made possible. Over the course of my time with Rinah it has been so amazing to see her growth and also my own. Knowing that something as simple as sending a letter (even in this day and age) can have such a profound impact helping her and others like her feel supported and hopeful is the best thing I could ask for. It's all made possible by this amazing program that has allowed me and Rinah to build our relationship. Hopefully it will continue to do the same for many others in the years to come.



STAY CONNECTED!

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MICHELE'S CONTACT INFO:

1609 Jerome Street
Holland, Michigan 49423

(630) 606-3165
michelepageau@gmail.com



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